

# Northumbria Research Link

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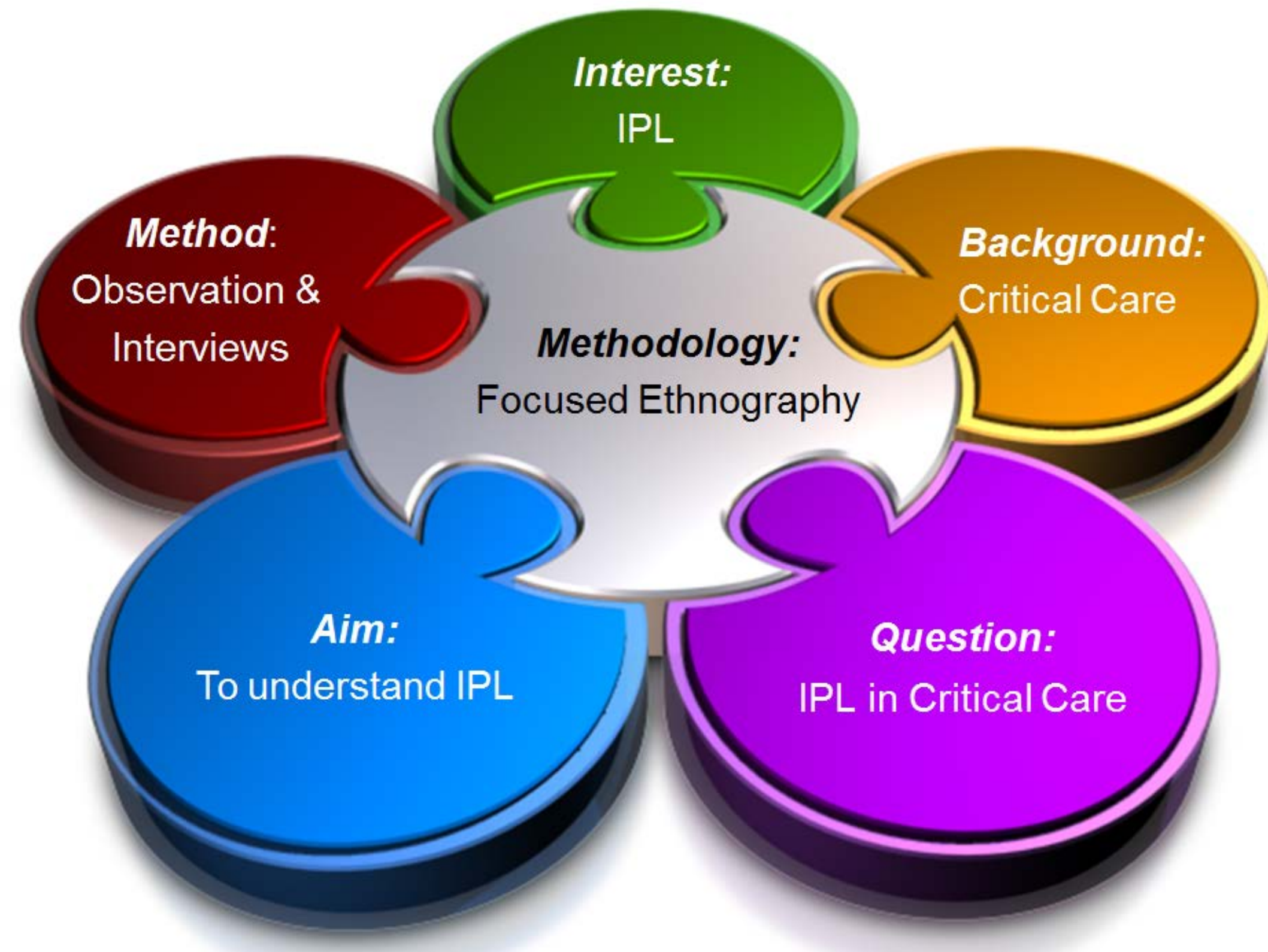
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## Research title

An ethnographic study of the Inter-Professional Learning culture of NHS staff within the adult critical care clinical setting.

## Background

Critical care is acknowledged as a complex and fast-paced care environment (Rothschild et al. 2005). The intensive level of patient care results in frequent interactions between different professional groups, therefore potentially increasing opportunity for collaborative practice and Inter-Professional Learning (IPL) to occur in this particular clinical setting. A body of evidence is accumulating to support the potential benefits to patients, staff and organisations as a result of Inter-Professional Learning through interprofessional education and collaborative practice (Reeves et al. 2009). However, research into Inter-Professional Learning within the specific area of critical care is limited. My research aims to explore this further.

**For the purpose of this study IPL is defined as:**

- Learning which happens between different occupational groups through the collaborative sharing of expertise, knowledge and experience.

## Research Design

### Aim

- To understand Inter-Professional Learning occurring within the specific culture of adult critical care.

### Objectives

- To develop a rich description of the Inter-Professional Learning culture in adult critical care clinical practice.
- To understand in-depth critical care practitioners' perceptions and experiences of Inter-Professional Learning within adult critical care clinical practice.
- To identify which factors are perceived to promote or inhibit effective Inter-Professional Learning.

### Methodology

A naturalistic qualitative approach will be adopted using ethnography to observe the interprofessional interactions of NHS critical care staff which may present learning opportunities within their natural setting, and in their 'natural state' (Hammersley and Atkinson 1997).

"Ethnographic research aims to provide rich, holistic insights into people's views and actions as well as the nature of the location they inhabit through the collection of detailed observations and interviews (Reeves et al. 2008 p.512)."

Focused ethnography has been chosen, also known as micro-ethnography, to focus upon one distinct issue within a culture in specific settings (Cruz and Higginbottom 2013). Using focused ethnography the distinct issue of IPL will therefore be explored specifically in adult critical care settings.

### Method

- |                    |   |                    |  |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|--|
| ● <i>Stage I:</i>  | Partial-participant observation   | ● <i>Stage II:</i> | Interviews   |
| ● <i>Sample:</i>   | Three adult NHS critical care units<br>All professionals within the environment | ● <i>Sample:</i>   | n= 4-12 per critical care department<br>4 occupational groups: Nurse, Doctor, Health Care Assistant, Physiotherapist |
| ● <i>Duration:</i> | Observations spanning 4 months per unit   | ● <i>Duration:</i> | Individual interviews ≤ 1 hour   |

### **Coming to a Critical Care Unit near you?**

It is proposed the research will take place within three units within the North of England and the research is currently undergoing stages of ethical approval.

